

RRD Obsession 2009 – Description and test from Danish riders



RRD Obsession is now for sale in your local shop.

This is RRD's freestyle kite for 2009. In 2009 will furthermore be launched a Delta shape kite called RRD Passion as well as a freeride/race/hangtime kite called Addiction. The later will however not be launched until Spring time.

Several Danish riders from the cold North have not used RRD Obsession for a while, and has now published their view on this new and excellent kite.

Below as short description of RRD Obsession, as well as statements from the riders.

RRD Obsession – officiel description:

In 2009, RRD Obsession is the only SLE kite i RRD's kite lineup – a 4 line freestyle kite with C-kite feeling.

RRD consider the Obsession to be a trendsetter with an optimal mix of turning speed and power/grunt – perfect for kiteloops and waveriding.

RRD Obsession is a very stabile kite, where focus has been on making it fast in the the bigger sizes while still retaining the massive lowend power. The smaller sizes have been developed with a slower turning speed on purpose, in order to create a consistent feel across the sizes. The result is that all sizes have an impressive lowend power and is perfect for unhooked riding.

KWPT world tour 2007 winner Seb Garat uses RRD Obsession, and finished number 2 with this kite recently in PKRA in Portugal. A SLE kite doing that well in a PKRA competition is not something you'll see everyday!

Kite characteristics according to RRD

- Stability
- Massive lowend power
- Progressive depower
- Medium barpress
- "Unbeatable turning speed"

Seb Garath: Thanks to this Kite, it's possible to make all the New School Freestyle Tricks. With the perfect setting, you have nearly the same feeling than a C-Kite. The Obsession is going to be my weapon for all the Incoming PKRA Contests





TECHNOLOGY

New moulded struts protectors;
New PVC Inflating valves protectors;
New SPS system with a new designed inflating valve;
Insignia double tape leech;
PVC round label strut end protectors;
Metallic PU strut end reinforcements;

Picture on the right: Handle for "self-rescue", and even a small "sparepart pocket".



The bar is nice and simple. Safety release is of course a 360 degree release. There are "Oh-shit handles" on both rear lines. The length on both front- and rear lines can be trimmed. Depower is above the bar with a clam-cleat system.

Comments from the Danish RRD Obsession riders

Troels and Frederik – RRD Team Riders



Troels – Danish Freestyle Champ 2006, 2007 and 2008. International RRD team rider.

First time I was out with the new Obsession was with a 9m in a competition in very gusty winds. Rigged the kite, launched it – pulled the depower a little and off I went.

Troels: "Alt i alt en freestyle kite som ikke kun er til hardcore sejlere, da den også har fuld depower, så slipper man baren, skal man ikke være bange for at bliver slæbt afsted :-)"

The first thing I noticed was the fast turning speed, and even though the wind was very gusty, it was very easy to create pull in the lulls so I could gain speed, unhook and do my tricks.

You can all the time feel where the kite is in pop tricks. If you do e.g. a back-to-blind-airpass, it is easy to keep the kite at 45 degrees at both pop and landing so you land at full speed.

I made quite a few Kiteloop-HP og Kiteloop-NIS (non-inverted-slimchance) that day. The Obsession boosts in the loops, which is super nice as you go high and get a pretty aggressive pull in the loops – but still land with full speed so you don't smack your knees.

The kite is also super for Oldschool. It's a long time since I found it that funny doing to one-footer, double-backroll and frontroll. The hangtime is excellent and it is easy to jump high. All in all a freestyle kite not only for the hardcore riders, as it also god full depower if you let go of the bar – no risk of being dragged along unintentionally ☺

Other comments from the Champ:

- **Unhooked:** Perfect bar pressure so you always know where the kite is. Direct and fast turning that enables you to always manage a jump or loop.
- **Relaunch:** As with most other SLE's these days; the Obsession relaunches with no effort. Pull a steering line and the kite will relaunch immediately.
- **Low end power:** You are never afraid to unhook. Almost no matter how much wind, you can edge and pop. I sail 12m as my biggest kite, which is enough as the fast turning makes it possible to generate power.
- **Stability:** Some hybrid kites can have a tendency to fall out of the sky due to the large depower. I have several times let go of the bar at 12 o'clock, and the kite just stays up there.
- **Quality:** The quality of the kites is very good! Struts have double stitches and there are extra reinforcements in the right places. But then again, RRD has always made quality products.
- **Possible improvements:** Colour preferences are individual, but in my opinion the kite should only have one colour ☺

Frederik – Young Gun 14 år. Local RRD teamrider.

Frede: They have made a kite that has excellent grunt and at the same time has perfect turning speed !

I think the new RRD Obsession, is an awesome kite!! They have made a kite that has excellent grunt and at the same time has perfect turning speed !

Unhooked: The kite is excellent to ride unhooked because when you unhook and pop, it just gives a little extra pull that makes you go higher.

Relaunch: Obsession is fast to relaunch. Just pull a steering line and it will fly up.

Low end power: Plenty of lowend grunt when you pull in the bar.

Stability: The kite has good stability when landing a trick, doing kiteloops or just cruising around.

Bar: The bar is of good quality and the grip is very good. Lines are of good quality and does not tangle as easy as some other I have tried.

Improvement: As there is no swivel where frontlines meet, the frontlines can get tangled a bit. However you can just grab the CL and unspin it again. The depower line is too long for my riding and it would be nice with a stopperball on this.

Steen – Average kiteboard weekend warrior ☺

Steen: My 95 kg (+200 lbs) is very happy with my new Obsessions. The power is super good – more than I expected actually. Water relaunch is super easy, just pull a steering line and the kite relauches immediately.

Steen: I honestly didn't think I would experience any big difference compared to my Hypertype2's, but the Obsession has to my surprise even more grunt – and are very stabile!

I don't have anything negative to say, especially not after I added a stopperball on the bar, as it had too much depower for my taste when letting go of the bar.

However, the long depower line has the advantage that the punishment is less severe if missing a trick. Also it should be a big advntage when riding the waves – however I haven't tried that yet.

The kite turns very fast and is very stabile. It has more bar pressure than the Hypertype2's I had before. I find that being an advantage, as I can better feel where the kite is without having to look at it.

The build quality is excellent. Re-enforcements in all the right places, etc. Kite and bar doesn't get much simpler than this. There are no bridles on the backlines and only one pulley on the frontlines. The bar has of course 360 degree safety release, and is simple and well-functioning.

Claus van der Watt – Danish kiteboarder living in Dubai

I have had the pleasure to ride with the new RRD Obsession in the sizes 15, 12 and 10.5 m in Dubai where I live. In short, the Obsession is the first kite that I have just unpacked, pumped and went on the water with and right away felt right. The kite just works perfectly right away.

It's a SLE freestyle kite with a real good "C feel", good depower and a perfect bar pressure.

The bigger sizes are fast, really fast for their size and with a surprisingly good lowend grunt. Compared to RRD Type9, the Obsession has a wider user appeal due to is amasing "smooth feel". Even with its aggressive performance it can be sailed by intermediates as well as the really hardcore riders. It jumps HIGH!!

Re-launch almost happens by itself, and unhooked riding is much more comfortable compared to the T9.

Obsession 10.5 is an optimal all round size with the same lowend as the T9 in 12m had. My sizes for 2009 will be 12 and 10.5 ...plus a 7m for the waves.

Pros: Smooth, good depower, does not stall, wider bar than 2008, easy relaunch and well built.

Cons: Lacks a stopper ball, and the CL is too small for my taste.

Over & out from the Danish RRD Obsession riders. Have fun – ride hard !!